

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

USIA WASHDC

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5455

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: IZVESTIYA LEADER ON THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

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USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

REF: MOSCOW 5418

1. SUMMARY. IZVESTIYA'S LEAD EDITORIAL APRIL 18 CONTINUES THE DISCUSSION OF THE PARTY PLENUM RESOLUTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION BEGUN BY PRAVDA (REFTEL). IT DEVOTES A LENGTHY PARAGRAPH TO A VERY DETAILED ATTACK ON ANTI-DETENTE FORCES ("MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, ZIONIST CIRCLES, AND ALSO SERVANTS OF MONOPOLY AT HEAD OF ALF-CIO") IN THE U.S., ACCUSING THEM, INTER ALIA, OF "INSPIRING NATO TO PLOT AGAINST PORTUGAL" -- THE ONLY MENTION OF THE LATTER COUNTRY TO APPEAR IN EITHER THE PRAVDA OR IZVESTIYA LEADERS. ON THE MIDDLE EAST, THE IZVESTIYA PIECE RESTATES THE STANDARD SOVIET POSITION ON SOLUTIONS, BUT HAS NOTHING TO SAY ABOUT NEGOTIATING MODALITIES AND MAKES NO MENTION AT ALL OF THE MEPC. EDITORIAL PAYS FAR MORE ATTENTION TO EUROPE THAN DID PRAVDA PIECE. IT SPECIFICALLY ENDORSES HELSINKI CSCE SUMMIT "THIS SUMMER" AND CONDEMNS THOSE TRYING TO USE BASKET III TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF USSR AND OTHER SOCIALIST STATES. EDITORIAL ECHOES TOUGH AND CONFIDENT TONE OF PRAVDA LEADER AND STATES ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF USSR AND SOCIALIST COMMONWEALTH IS GREATER THAN THAT OF U.S. AND COMMON MARKET. END SUMMARY.

2. THE IZVESTIYA LEADER DIFFERS FROM PRAVDA LEADER (REFTEL) IN ATTENTION IT DEVOTES TO RELATIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPE AND IN ITS SOMEWHAT SHARPER TONE AND GREATER DETAIL RE FORCES OF REACTION IN U.S. (THE AUTHORITY OF THE PRAVDA LEADER, HOWEVER, WAS FURTHER EMPHASIZED ON APRIL 19 WHEN THE ARMY NEWSPAPER KRASNAYA ZVEZDA REPRINTED IT IN FULL RATHER THAN ITSELF COMMENT ON THE PARTY PLENUM RESOLUTION.)

3. IZVESTIYA UNDERLINES, AS DID PRAVDA, THE IMPORTANCE OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS IN GENERAL AND OF THE VLADIVOSTOK SUMMIT IN PARTICULAR. IT ALSO SPECIFICALLY ATTACKS "INFLUENTIAL FORCES" IN THE U.S. WHO OPPOSE BOTH DETENTE IN SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS AND DETENTE IN GENERAL, AND WHO NOT ONLY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR REFUSAL TO GRANT USSR MFN, BUT ALSO INSPIRE NATO TO CONTINUE THE ARMS RACE AND TO PLOT AGAINST PORTUGAL. IZVESTIYA ALSO PARROTS ELSEWHERE IN THE LEADER THE

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PLENUM RESOLUTION'S ACCUSATION THAT "FORCES" (READ THE U.S.) BY "USSR INTERFERENCE" IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER PEOPLES (READ VIETNAM) ARE ATTEMPTING TO CUT OFF THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY.

4. ON THE MIDDLE EAST IZVESTIYA IN STANDARD TERMS ASSERTS THAT A SETTLEMENT IS IMPOSSIBLE SO LONG AS ISRAEL OCCUPIES ARAB LANDS AND THE PALESTINIANS' NATIONAL RIGHTS ARE NOT

GUARANTEED. HOWEVER, IT TOTALLY AVOIDS DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO A SETTLEMENT, AND DOES NOT MENTION THE GENEVA CONFERENCE -- A STRIKING OMISSION.

5. THE COMMENT O INDOCHINA VARIES ONLY SLIGHTLY FROM PRAVDA'S. WHILE IT CHARGES THE SAIGON REGIME WITH NO FULFILLING THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND SAYS THAT SAIGON WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY FURTHER FIGHTING, IT DOES NOT MENTION THE U.S. DIRECTLY. CRITICISM OF CHINA IS REDUCED TO ONE PHRASE ASSERTING THAT MAOIST ACTIVITIES CANNOT INFLUENCE SOVIET-THIRD WORLD FRIENDSHIP OR DETENTE IN GENERAL.

6. IT IS ALSO PERHAPS INTERESTING THAT IZVESTIYA LEADER, IN DESCRIBING LENINIST STYLE OF WORK IN USSR LAUDS "COLLECTIVEITY," WHILE PRAVDA MAKES NO MENTION OF THIS STERLING ATTRIBUTE.
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